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ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF,

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 DE RUEHC #7908 1790147  
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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0160  
 INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 1571  
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 6617  
 RUEAIIA/ CIA WASHDC PRIORITY 4365  
 BT

S E C R E T   STATE 197908

NODISCIA EYES ONLY DCI

State Dept. review completed

E.O. 12356: DECL DADK  
 TAGS: PTER, LE, AL  
 SUBJECT: AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON -- CHANNELS TO  
 FADLALLAH

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IMAM MEHDY KHORASANI (CALIFORNIA SHI'A MULLAH) TELEPHONED DEPTOFF TO SAY HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TALK BY TELEPHONE WITH SHEIKH FADLALLAH AT APPROXIMATELY 8 P.M. LEBANON TIME JUNE 27. SINCE FADLALLAH WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS DURING THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, HIS REMARKS TO KHORASANI WERE REPORTEDLY CRYPTIC.

3. KHORASANI SAID HE TOLD FADLALLAH THAT THE GRIEVANCES OF LEBANON'S SHI'A POPULATION HAVE RECEIVED MORE THAN AMPLE PUBLICITY IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE AND EXHORTED HIM TO FREE THE HOSTAGES IMMEDIATELY. FADLALLAH AGREED AND SAID THAT HE WAS FEELING "OPTIMISTIC" THAT THE HOSTAGE PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN A DAY.

4. KHORASANI GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT FADLALLAH AND THE OTHER SHI'A IN LEBANON WERE NOW EXTREMELY AFRAID OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF A CONTINUATION OF THE HOSTAGE CRISIS. HE TOLD KHORASANI IN PERSIAN AT ONE POINT "THE GUN IS AT OUR

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HEADS; WE ARE NOT IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION".

5. WHEN DEPTOFF ASKED WHETHER KHORASANI HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS ANY SPECIFICS SUCH AS THE FATE OF THE SEVEN HOSTAGES TAKEN PRIOR TO THE AIRCRAFT HIGHJACKING, HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION (NOT FROM FA\_DLALLAH) THAT THE LEBANESE SHI'A WOULD BE INCLINED TO HOLD SOME HOSTAGES UNTIL THEY WERE CONVINCED THERE WOULD BE NO RETRIBUTION.

6. BACKGROUND COMMENT: KHORASANI, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE SHI'A MOSQUE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA, WAS HELPFUL TO US DURING THE IRANIAN HOSTAGE CRISIS. AS A MULLAH EDUCATED IN THE TOP SHI'A INSTITUTIONS IN IRAN, HE KNOWS PERSONALLY AND INDIRECTLY LEADING SHI'A CLERGY THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. HE CLAIMS TO KNOW FA\_DLALLAH VERY WELL.

7. FOR ALGIERS: YOU SHOULD ASK GOA TO HAVE THEIR AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT CONTACT BARTHOLOMEW TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF THE SEVEN MISSING AMERICANS. BARTHOLOMEW WILL PROVIDE OUR THINKING ON HOW TO PRESS THIS ISSUE WITH FA\_DLALLAH AND OTHER ALGERIAN CONTACTS.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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